Long Island Botanical Society

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A new sedge species for Long Island: *Carex bromoides*

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Figure 1. *Carex bromoides,* brome-like sedge, showing the fruiting structures (perigynia) of plants from the North Fork Preserve population (left; photographed by Taylor Sturm, June 15, 2024) and from the population in the Town of Smithtown, the first known locality for this species on Long Island (right; photographed by Taylor Sturm, July 2, 2023). Note the already freely-shedding perigynia which form the distinctly slender and delicate infructescence of this species.

Brome-like sedge (*Carex bromoides*) is a relatively common sedge (Cyperaceae) throughout much of eastern North America. However, up until now, there had been no prior Long Island records of this species and it was assumed to be restricted to "mainland" New York (Naczi 1990). Herein I describe two localities for this species in Suffolk County, Long Island: Smithtown and Riverhead.

On July 2, 2023, I bushwacked into a thick wetland in the Blydenburgh County Park complex (what was at the time called Bill Richards Park) in the Town of Smithtown. The wetland in question is hydrologically connected to the south end of Stump Pond, but no trail exists to formally access it. My purpose during this visit was to hopefully find some interesting wetland plants; specifically sedges (*Carex* spp.) or orchids.

During this visit, I did find several familiar sedges that I enjoyed studying and photographing (e.g. *Carex laevivaginata*, *C. abscondita*, and others). However, while standing in a swampy, *Symplocarpus foetidus* and *Leersia*-dominated seepage, I came across a small population of sedge I was less familiar with. These were delicate, tussock-forming plants with subtle, slender fruiting parts. These struck me as looking promising for *Carex bromoides* (or another member of *Carex sect. Deweyanae*). That said, I had only seen this species once, upstate, and understood that it was not previously known from Long Island so was dubious.

I spent some time photographing the plants (Fig. 1), and their perigynia (i.e., fruits) to document them before pressing on with my exploration. When I returned home, I sent the photographs to David Werier and Robert Naczi who confirmed my suspicions that this was indeed *Carex bromoides*.

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Long Island Botanical Society

Founded: 1986 • Incorporated: 1989

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

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Society News

In Memoriam Larry Penny (1935-2024)

There will always be a special place in my mind and heart for Larry Penny. He was one of those old time "gentleman" naturalists who always had some great stories, or sightings, or new info to share. His writings on natural history for the East Hampton Star were top notch and eloquently written, and I for one always relished them and learned much from them. And so another one from the "old school" passes, and that is our loss.

MaryLaura Lamont

So very sad. I guess we don't live forever -- although for people like Larry, does the laughter and the spirit? I think so. Will miss you deeply.

Karen Blumer

Larry Penny was one of a dying breed of Long Island naturalists, who learned nature, not just from the formalities of higher education, but from his hands in the ground and his heart beating in kinship alongside and with Long Island's wildlife. My friendship with Larry goes back to the closing of the twentieth century and the dawning of the twenty-first century when we surveyed salt marshes together and spied on ospreys on their platform nests, some of which he erected and some of which I did. He always carried enthusiasm on his shoulder and had a smile that radiated with laughter. Along with his prolific writings of nature on the eastern end of Long Island, and his role in conservation management in East Hampton, one of his under-appreciated achievements was the development of a simple, yet highly successful technique of restoring salt marshes that were damaged by prior bungled attempts at salt marsh ditching to rid the salt marshlands of mosquitoes, a keystone salt marsh species that plays a fundamental ecological role in salt marsh health. While the expensive contracted mitigations of blocking, filling, or redesigning the earlier ditches received much attention and funding with misdirected and ambiguous results, Larry's benign and economical approach with sand bagging the seaward end of ditches proved effective and truer to natural rehabilitation. The development and effectual implementation of his method lies in the salt marshes of eastern Long Island and are described in the chapter he wrote for the reference book, "Tidal Marshes of Long Island, New York", published in conjunction by the Torrey Botanical Society and the Long Island Botanical Society. Larry left a fine legacy of promotion of wild plants and animals on Long Island. I will miss him.

John Potente

Photo: Larry Penny accepting a conservation award in 1990.
Photo courtesy of the East Hampton Star.

Current status of a rare loosestrife (*Lysimachia hybrida*) at Greentree, Nassau County, Long Island

Jim Stevenson and Stéphane Perreault

Greentree Foundation, Manhasset, Long Island, NY

In 2007, a trail was constructed through the 200-acre forest at Greentree, the former John Hay and Betsey Cushing Whitney estate in Manhasset. A boardwalk, connected to this trail, was built to span a vernal pool, which in that year had about 3 feet of water at its deepest part (possibly a historical high).

In most years, however, the pool remains dry or with very little water. The tree canopy layer is dominated by sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), with a fair number of highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) in the understory, and marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*) and sedges (*Carex* spp., *Cyperus* spp., and others) in the herbaceous layer. In years when water is found in the pool, its depth is usually about one

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(Carex bromoides, continued from cover)

In 1990, Robert Naczi described a high-elevation subspecies of *C. bromoides* (*C. b. montana*) in the southeast of the United States. In this effort, Naczi undertook a comprehensive review of the botanical record (through herbarium records, etc.) of this species. In his paper, "The taxonomy of *Carex bromoides* (Cyperaceae)," Naczi provides a map of *C. bromoides* records, and in this figure, Long Island is conspicuously absent (Naczi 1990). Furthermore, in personal correspondence with R. Naczi, he said the following: "it's surprising *Carex bromoides* has not been documented from Long Island, and it should be there." As such, this Town of Smithtown locality represents the first record of this sedge from Long Island. A collection/voucher of this species was made a year later, on June 4, 2024, when I revisited the Blydenburgh population.

On July 15, 2024, I visited North Fork Preserve (Town of Riverhead) with Eric Lamont, on a trip to purposefully collect *Carex* sedges. During that trip, we collected and identified 24 species in three hours. Early on in that effort, we came across a single plant on the edge of damp woods that looked very promising for *C. bromoides*. Most of its perigynia had been shed at this point, but two or three flowering spikes persisted. These were able to be adequately photographed and confirmed to be a second location for this species (Fig. 1). Thus, this Riverhead locality represents the second record of this sedge. A portion of this plant (including what limited perigynia were present) was also collected.

With other plants, especially those that are aggressive or spread easily, new locations for some species can often be the result of newly established populations. In the case of *Carex bromoides*, it is more likely that this species has simply been overlooked on Long Island, though is likely still rare. This is supported by the fact that the locations of these populations are in relatively obscure locations (i.e., not on the side of a road where seed sources from elsewhere may be freely deposited). This species is also easy to overlook: throughout most of the year (i.e., when mature perigynia are absent) the plant may be easily confused for other cespitose sedges. During my observations of these populations, perigynia were freely shedding or otherwise beginning to degrade by early July. Thus, the window for adequately identifying (and thus finding) this species may only exist for two (or fewer) months. Hopefully Long Island botanists and sedge-observers will keep this species in mind going forward, as it is likely that additional populations will be found.

One other important detail to consider is the future of this species on Long Island. In August of 2024, the dam that retains Stump Pond at Blydenburgh broke, following severe flooding. This reverted much of the local hydrology to a condition that hasn't existed since the late 1700s (per Suffolk County Parks). As described above, the first population of this plant was observed within wetlands that are hydrologically connected to Stump Pond. Thus, this dramatic change in hydrology may have effects on this population (for better or for worse). Only future monitoring of this population will tell.

I would like to acknowledge David Werier and Robert Naczi for assisting and encouraging me through correspondences and providing commentary regarding the identification of these plants. Further, I want to thank Eric Lamont for joining me in the field for the second discovery of this species, as well as encouraging me to write this article.

Literature Cited

Arsenault, M., G. H. Mittelhauser, D. Cameron, A. C. Dibble, A. Haines, S. C. Rooney, and J. E. Weber. 2013. Sedges of Maine: A Field Guide to Cyperaceae. University of Maine Press, Orono, ME. 712 pp.

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(Loosestrife continued from page 27)
foot, and the pool covers about 0.4 acres. In these wet years the vernal pool hosts indicator species such as fairy shrimp, spotted salamander, and wood frog.

A yellow-flowering plant was first observed and photographed near the center of the pool area in July 2014 (dry that year). At first this was assumed to be fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*), but closer observation - later confirmed by New York State Botanist Rich Ring - proved it to be the rarer (S1), lance-leaved loosestrife (*L. hybrida*). In July 2023 the area covered by this plant, comprised of dozens of stems, measured about 9 feet by 6 feet, and is thought to be somewhat larger than when first seen in 2014. On July 19, 2023, the plant was mostly prostrate, probably due to heavy rainstorms shortly before then, but prior to the rain, had stood about 20 to 30 inches tall.

This specimen is the only known plant of this species at Greentree. NYS Botanist, Rich Ring, in the New York Natural Heritage Program's Ecological Community and Rare Plant Survey report for Greentree, stated of the lance-leaved loosestrife: "It is unknown whether it represents a remnant of a once larger population or is more recently established…and is one of only eight known extant populations in NY, and one of just two in Nassau County."

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First report of *Euphorbia ipecacuanhae* (Euphorbiaceae) for the South Fork of Long Island

Janet Novak

While botanizing on May 8, 2024 near Big Fresh Pond in Wolf Swamp Sanctuary, Southampton, Suffolk County, five individuals of ipecac spurge (*Euphorbia ipecacuanhae*) were discovered in a pine-oak forest (Locality: 40.92215, -72.42307). This is the first report of this species from the South Fork; previously, it had never before been recorded from the Towns of East Hampton and Southampton. Ipecac spurge is listed as an endangered species (S1) in New York; historically, it has only been recorded from Staten Island and Long Island. The species is considered extirpated in Kings and Queens Counties and very rare in Nassau County. In Suffolk County it can be found at a few localities on dry sandy roadsides in the pine barrens in the Towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead (also, a few scattered individuals have been recorded from the Towns of Islip and Smithtown).

First collection of sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) for Long Island, NY

Eric Lamont, Andrew Greller, and Rich Kelly

Figure 1. *Nelumbo nucifera*, sacred lotus, at Merrick Lake, Nassau County, Long Island, NY; above: overview of the offshore colony in deep mucky water; below: close-up of flowers and fruits. Photos by Andrew Greller, 2021.

Nelumbo nucifera, sacred lotus (native of Asia), was excluded from the flora of New York by Werier (2017) because after extensive searches he could not locate a voucher of the species from New York. In 2008, Rich Kelly reported a population of sacred lotus from the southeast corner of Merrick Lake on the north side of Merrick Road, Nassau County (Lamont 2009). The population has been monitored regularly during the past 15 years but a voucher was not collected until 2021 (see below). The plants in Merrick Lake are difficult to reach, they occur offshore in deep mucky water. Collection of a voucher required the use of a grappling hook and reeling in vegetative plant parts. The population has grown in size since 2008 (Fig. 1).

Voucher specimen: New York. Nassau Co., Town of Hempstead, Merrick Lake, 4 Sep 2021, *E.E. Lamont & A.M. Greller s.n.* (in personal herbarium of Eric Lamont, to be deposited at The New York Botanical Garden herbarium (NY); collection number to be assigned).

Literature Cited

Lamont, E. E. 2009. Plant sightings. Long Island Botanical Society Newsletter 19: 14-15.

Werier, D. 2017. Catalogue of the vascular plants of New York State. Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Society 27: 1-542.

First report of *Acalypha setosa* (Euphorbiaceae) for New York

Victoria Bustamante, David Werier, and Eric Lamont

Acalypha setosa A. Rich., Cuban copperleaf, is reported here as the first naturalized occurrence in New York from a highly disturbed habitat in Suffolk County on Long Island's coastal plain. This species has not previously been reported for the state (Levin 2016; Werier 2017; USDA, NRCS 2024). Our record is the northeastern most documented occurrence of this species in the continental United States. Before this record, the species had not been reported north of South Carolina (USDA, NRCS 2024).

In October 2020, a population of approximately a dozen flowering and fruiting individuals of *A. setosa* was found by Vicki Bustamante growing in the cracks of a produce market parking lot on North Sea Road in the Village of Southampton, Suffolk County. The occurrence was documented with a herbarium specimen and photographs (Fig. 2). The source of the plants is not known and the occurrence is certainly the result of a "spontaneous" introduction, likely from seeds or propagules being brought there by a person. The site was revisited in 2022 and 2023 by Bustamante and no individuals of *A. setosa* were observed.

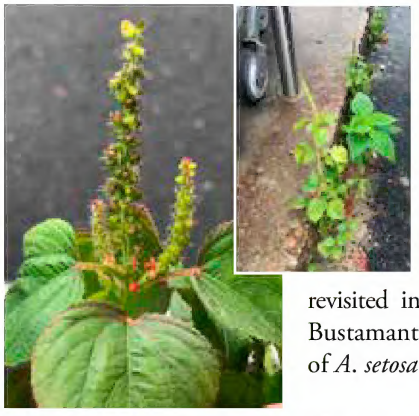

Figure 2. *Acalypha setosa,* Cuban copperleaf, from Southampton, Suffolk County, NY; (top) voucher: *V. Bustamante 1849,* NY; (bottom left) upper plant with inflorescence; (middle right) growing in cracks of a produce market parking lot. Photos by Victoria Bustamante, 2020.

Voucher specimen. New York. Suffolk Co., Southampton Town, Southampton Village, growing in cracks of a gourmet produce market parking lot, 40.89123°N 072.39431°W, 28 Oct. 2020, *V. Bustamante 1849* (NY).

Literature Cited

Levin, G. A. 2016. *Acalypha* Linnaeus, pp. 162–172. *In* Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds., Flora of North America north of Mexico, volume 12, Magnoliophyta: Vitaceae to Garryaceae. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

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Another ten foot, non-native grass is colonizing Long Island

Eric Lamont

Tripidium ravenale (Poaceae), sometimes called hardy pampas grass, Ravenna grass, or plume grass, is native of southern Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. It has been sold in nurseries on Long Island and throughout the eastern USA for use as an ornamental grass in gardens (Fig. 3). It was first reported as adventive in New York in 2011 (New York County) and since then it has been recorded (before this report) from two localities in Suffolk County (Lamont *et al.* 2014, Lamont 2019). The current report (based on the below voucher) represents the third known record from Long Island and the first from the Town of Southold.

Voucher specimen. New York. Suffolk Co., Town of Southold, Orient, a clump growing on the south side of Route 25 approx. 1000 feet east of Truman's Beach (Locality: 41.143234, -72.312809), 4 Nov 2024, *E.E. Lamont s.n.* (in personal herbarium of Eric Lamont, to be deposited at The New York Botanical Garden herbarium (NY); collection number to be assigned).

Literature Cited

Lamont, E. E. 2019. Plant sightings. Long Island Botanical Society Newsletter 29: 6.

Lamont, E. E., D. Werier, and S. D. Glenn. 2014. Noteworthy plants reported from the Torrey Range—2011 and 2012. Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society 141: 95-108.

Figure 3. A small section of the showy plume of *Tripidium ravenale* (hardy pampas grass, Ravenna grass, plume grass; Poaceae).

Bush Honeysuckle Identificaton Characters in New York State

Steve Young, January 2024

Of the nine taxa of bush honeysuckles spontaneously occurring in New York, six are non-native and all six occur on Long Island; the three native species only occur Upstate and have not been recorded from Long Island. *Lonicera morrowii* is a very common and highly invasive shrub forming dense thickets in forest understories; this is Long Island's most common shrubby honeysuckle. *Lonicera maackii* and *L. fragrantissima* are both relatively common on western Long Island, especially northern Nassau County (of the two, *L. maackii* is more common); neither has been recorded from eastern Long Island (Suffolk County). Although *L. tatarica* is often considered to be common on Long Island, it is actually quite uncommon to rare; most reports are based on misidentifications. *Lonicera* × *bella* has been recorded from northern Nassau County (Town of Oyster Bay) and northwestern Suffolk County (Towns of Huntington and Islip). *Loncera xylosteum* has been collected only two times on Long Island and no extant populations are known.

In the below tables, yellow cells have important characters most useful in identification.

Exotic Species (fields, woodlands, roadsides)	**Mature Bark**	**Pith**	**Winter Buds**	**Mature Leaf Shape**	**Mature Leaf Width cm**	**Leaf Tip**	**Leaf Bottom Hairs**	**Flower Peduncle in mm**	**Upper Lip Notches**	**Flower Habit**	**Flower Color & odor**	**Fruit Color**
Lonicera fragrantissima (Winter)	Shaggy or peely	Solid and white	Long acute	Mostly wide elliptic and leathery	2.0-4.5	Acute with bristle tip	Glabrous to bristles on midrib	5-10	Shallow	Erect to pendant as leaves emerge	White in early spring, citrus	Orange or red, hidden
Lonicera maackii (Amur)	Distinctly ridged	Hollow	Long acute	Ovate to lance ovate	2.0-4.5	Acuminate	Long hairs on the veins	<5mm	Shallow	Erect	White fading yellow, sweet	Bright red
Lonicera morrowii (Morrow's)	Shaggy or peely	Hollow	Short blunt	Oblong to narrow elliptic	1.5-2.5	Acute	Dense hairs all the way across	10 rarely 15	Deep	Erect	Mostly white, sometimes pink fading yellow, sweet	Orange to red
Lonicera tatarica (Tatarian)	Shaggy or peely	Hollow	Short blunt to acute	Ovate to oblong	1-2 (3)	Acute	No hairs	15-25	Deep	Erect	Mostly pink to red fading yellow, sweet	Yellow to orange to red
Lonicera x *bella* (Pretty)	Shaggy or peely	Hollow	Short blunt	Ovate to oblong to narrow elliptic	1.5-2.5	Obtuse to acute	On veins sometimes scattered between	10 rarely 15	Deep	Erect	Mostly pink fading yellow, sweet	Yellow to orange to red
Lonicera xylosteum (European fly)	Shaggy or peely	Hollow	Long acute to acuminate	Narrow to wide elliptic to oblanceolate	1.0-4.0	Obtuse to acute	All the way across	10	Shallow	Erect	White fading yellow, sweet	Bright red

Native Species	**Mature Bark**	**Pith**	**Winter Buds**	**Mature Leaf Shape**	**Mature Leaf Width cm**	**Leaf Tip**	**Leaf Bottom Hairs**	**Flower Peduncle in mm**	**Upper Lip Notches**	**Flower Habit**	**Flower Color & odor**	**Fruit Color**
Lonicera canadensis (American fly - woods)	Shreddy plates	Solid	Very small, blunt	Ovate to elliptic	2.0-4.5 Petiole 5 mm	Acute	Glabrous or a few hairs	20-35	No notch	Pendant	Light yellow	Bright red
Lonicera oblongifolia (Swamp fly – fens/swamps)	Long narrow plates	Solid	Small acute to long acute	Oblong to oblanceolate	1.5-3.5 Petiole 2 mm	Acute	Downy all the way across	20-40	Shallow	Erect	Light yellow to white	Red
Lonicera villosa (Mountain fly - fens)	Shaggy or peely	Solid	Small acute to long acute	Long elliptic to obovate	0.7-2.0 Petiole 1-2 mm	Obtuse to rounded	Long sparse hairs all the way across	3-10	No notch	Pendant	Light yellow	Blue

Key to Bush Honeysuckles

1a. Flowering in March and April when leaves emerging or new. Citrus fragrance. Leaves leathery, often with bristle tip. ***L. fragrantissima***

1b. Flowering in May and June with mature leaves. Sweet fragrance. Leaves not leathery and acute or obtuse apex.

2a. Stems and branchlets with solid white pith. Woodlands, fens and swamps.

3a. Pendant flowers with equal petals all around, underside of leaves glabrous or with sparse hairs.

4a. Peduncles 3-10 mm, fruit blue, leaf width 0.7-2 cm, petiole 1-2 mm, fens. ***L. villosa***

4b. Peduncles 20-35 mm, fruit red, leaf width 2.0-4.5 cm, petiole 5 mm, woodlands. ***L. canadensis***

3b. Erect flowers with upper and lower petals, underside of leaves velvety. ***L. oblongifolia***

2b. Stem and branchlets with hollow darker pith. Woodlands, roadsides, fields and disturbed areas.

5a. Peduncles shorter than 5mm, leaf apex abruptly acuminate. Young flowers white. ***L. maackii***

5b. Peduncles 5-25 mm, leaf apexes obtuse to acute. Young flowers white to pink.

6a. Leaves with hairs all the way across the bottom of leaf, peduncles 10-15 mm.

7a. Bottom hairs dense all the way across, young flowers mostly white.

8a. Winter buds short, blunt. Flower upper lip with deep sinuses. ***L. morrowii***

8b. Winter buds long acuminate. Flower upper lip with shallow sinuses. ***L. xylosteum***

7b. Bottom hairs very scattered or absent between veins, flowers mostly pink. ***L. x bella***

6b. Leaves glabrous on the bottom, peduncles 15-25 mm. ***L. tatarica***

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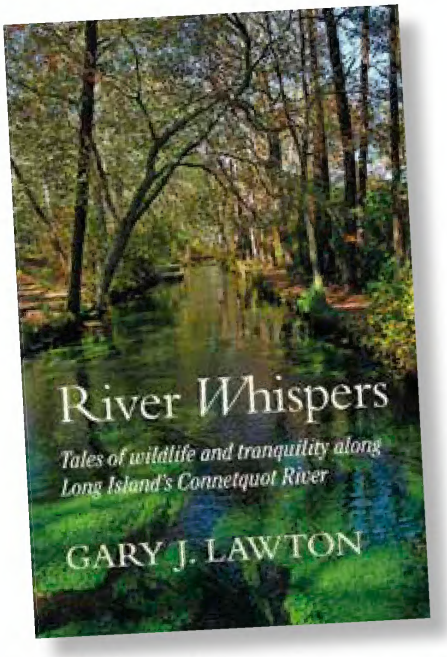
Gary Lawton, LIBS Member, publishes new book: *River Whispers*



Highlights the flora and fauna of Connetquot River State Park during his tenure there in the late 1990s. 222 pages. ISBN 979-8-9908571-0-0

Available on Amazon, $19.59

(Field Trips continued from back cover)

Walk the Walking Dunes at Hither Hills State Park, Montauk. These unique 80 foot high parabolic dunes, created by strong northwesterly shifting winds, are slowly marching southeastward covering all in their path. Passing through a maritime pitch pine woodland we will see signs of the phantom forest, with its twisted oaks and crooked pitch pines. Cradled in the dunes are bogs which are host to many rare and unusual plants. The brackish meadows and interdunal swales shelter many interesting botanical treats which we will be sure to highlight.

Please register online with the North Shore Land Alliance (northshorelandalliance.org). After you have registered, but before the event, we will email you to confirm your attendance and provide more detailed information.

LIBS 40-Year Anniversary Celebration

Plans are underway for the celebration in 2026 of the 40-year anniversary of LIBS. Vicki Bustamante is involved with organizing the event which will take place at the historic Third House Nature Center in Montauk. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Eric Lamont at elamont@optonline.net.

Long Island Botanical Society
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2025 Field Trips and LIBS 40-year Anniversary Celebration (2026)

September 27, 2025 (Saturday) 10am–4pm
Montauk Point State Park, Suffolk Co.
Trip Leader: Vicki Bustamante
Joint trip with the New York Flora Association

Tides permitting, we will first look for signs off the point of the ancient "Ghost Forest" (see 2011 LIBS newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 4) and the 4,700 year old Atlantic White Cedar stumps and remnant peat bog. We will then botanize a few small coastal plain ponds, and then continue on to a coastal salt pond (Oyster Pond) while passing through maritime dunes, beach, shrubland, and woodlands.

Some expected rarities include *Eupatorium torreyanum, Juncus brachycarpus, Asclepias incarnata* var. *pulchra, Elymus glabriflorus* var. *glabriflorus, Euphorbia polygonifolia, Polygonum glaucum, Schoenoplectiella purshiana* var. *purshiana, Aristida geniculata, Atriplex glabriuscula, Viburnum dentatum* var. *venosum, Sesuvium maritimum, Glyceria obtusa,* and *Juncus dichotomus.*

Hike will be 5 miles or so but easy walking. Bring water, lunch, snacks and insect protection. Sturdy walking shoes/boots, preferably waterproof, as we will be navigating through some wet areas and puddles and shoreline, walking sticks, binocular, water, and snack (or lunch), tick protection.

Register online at the New York Flora Association website (montauk@nyflora.org) and additional details regarding the trip will be sent in your confirmation email. Field trip is limited to 20 participants.

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11am
Walking Dunes Hike
Hither Hills State Park, Montauk, Suffolk Co.
Trip Leader: Vicki Bustamante
Joint trip with the Third House Nature Center and the North Shore Land Alliance

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